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# SENATE BILL No. 251

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## DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

**Citations Affected:** IC 20-6.1-6-18; IC 31-9-2-112.5; IC 31-10-2-1; IC 31-37; IC 31-39-2-16.

**Synopsis:** Restorative juvenile justice. Provides that a school corporation may allow a public school teacher to participate, without loss of pay or benefits, in a family group conference conducted through a restorative justice program under certain circumstances. Specifies that a juvenile court may require, as part of: (1) a program of informal adjustment; or (2) a disposition decree; that a delinquent child who has committed an act that would be a crime if committed by an adult participate in a restorative justice program. Makes related changes.

**Effective:** July 1, 2001.

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**Clark**

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January 11, 2001, read first time and referred to Committee on Judiciary.

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First Regular Session 112th General Assembly (2001)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2000 General Assembly.

## SENATE BILL No. 251

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning family law and juvenile law.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

1       SECTION 1. IC 20-6.1-6-18 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE  
2 AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY  
3 1, 2001]: **Sec. 18. The governing body and each administrator of a**  
4 **school corporation that employs a teacher may provide the teacher**  
5 **with a reasonable opportunity to participate, without loss of pay or**  
6 **benefits, in family group conferences (and related training**  
7 **sessions) that:**

8           (1) **promote restorative justice (as defined in IC 31-9-2-112.5);**

9           (2) **involve a child who was or is the teacher's student; and**

10          (3) **are conducted in conformity with a plan that:**

11           (A) **was developed under IC 31-37-24;**

12           (B) **is approved by the governing body of the school**  
13 **corporation that employs the teacher; and**

14           (C) **encourages the involvement of a child's teachers in**  
15 **family group conferences conducted through a restorative**  
16 **justice program.**

17       SECTION 2. IC 31-9-2-112.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA



CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2001]: **Sec. 112.5. As used in the juvenile law,**  
**"restorative justice" means a community based effort that:**

**(1) is focused on a delinquent child who has committed an act  
 that would be a crime if committed by an adult; and**

**(2) has the goal of:**

**(A) requiring the delinquent child to acknowledge the  
 delinquent child's wrongdoing;**

**(B) in appropriate cases, making reparations to the victim  
 and the community; and**

**(C) maximizing the participation of the delinquent child,  
 victim, and members of the community in an effort to:**

**(i) prevent further delinquent acts and crime; and**

**(ii) restore the victim and the community, after a  
 delinquent act has occurred, to a condition as close as  
 possible to the condition of the victim and the community  
 before the delinquent act occurred.**

SECTION 3. IC 31-10-2-1 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2001]: Sec. 1. It is the policy of this  
 state and the purpose of this title to:

(1) recognize the importance of family and children in our  
 society;

(2) recognize the responsibility of the state to enhance the  
 viability of children and family in our society;

(3) acknowledge the responsibility each person owes to the other;

(4) strengthen family life by assisting parents to fulfill their  
 parental obligations;

(5) ensure that children within the juvenile justice system are  
 treated as persons in need of care, protection, treatment, and  
 rehabilitation;

(6) remove children from families only when it is in the child's  
 best interest or in the best interest of public safety;

(7) provide for adoption as a viable permanency plan for children  
 who are adjudicated children in need of services;

(8) provide a juvenile justice system that protects the public by  
 enforcing the legal obligations that children have to society and  
 society has to children;

(9) use diversionary programs when appropriate;

(10) provide a judicial procedure that:

(A) ensures fair hearings;

(B) recognizes and enforces the legal rights of children and  
 their parents; and

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- 1 (C) recognizes and enforces the accountability of children and  
 2 parents;  
 3 (11) promote public safety and individual accountability by the  
 4 imposition of appropriate sanctions; ~~and~~  
 5 (12) provide a continuum of services developed in a cooperative  
 6 effort by local governments and the state; ~~and~~  
 7 **(13) involve in restorative justice programs, when**  
 8 **appropriate, delinquent children who have committed acts**  
 9 **that would be crimes if committed by an adult.**

10 SECTION 4. IC 31-37-9-1 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
 11 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2001]: Sec. 1. After the preliminary  
 12 inquiry and upon approval by the juvenile court, the intake officer may  
 13 implement a program of informal adjustment if the officer has probable  
 14 cause to believe that the child is a delinquent child. **If the officer has**  
 15 **probable cause to believe that the child has committed a delinquent**  
 16 **act that would be a crime if committed by an adult, the program of**  
 17 **informal adjustment may include participation in restorative**  
 18 **justice programs.**

19 SECTION 5. IC 31-37-17-1.1 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
 20 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2001]: Sec. 1.1. (a) The person  
 21 preparing the report under section 1 of this chapter:

- 22 (1) may; or  
 23 (2) if directed by the court, shall;  
 24 confer with individuals who have expertise in professional areas related  
 25 to the child's needs in the areas of appropriate care, treatment,  
 26 rehabilitation, or placement for a delinquent child.

27 (b) A conference held under this chapter may include  
 28 representatives of the following:

- 29 (1) The child's school.  
 30 (2) The probation department.  
 31 (3) The county office of family and children.  
 32 (4) A community mental health center located in the child's  
 33 county of residence.  
 34 (5) A community mental retardation and other developmental  
 35 disabilities center located in the child's county of residence.  
 36 **(6) Persons who are appropriate to participate in family**  
 37 **group conferences with the child through a restorative justice**  
 38 **program, including the victim and the child's coworkers,**  
 39 **family, and teachers.**  
 40 (7) Other persons as the court may direct.

41 SECTION 6. IC 31-37-19-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.32-2000,  
 42 SECTION 21, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE

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JULY 1, 2001]: Sec. 5. (a) This section applies if a child is a delinquent child under IC 31-37-1.

(b) The juvenile court may, in addition to an order under section 6 of this chapter, enter at least one (1) of the following dispositional decrees:

(1) Order supervision of the child by:

(A) the probation department; or

(B) the county office of family and children.

As a condition of probation under this subdivision, the court shall after a determination under IC 5-2-12-4(3) require a child who is adjudicated a delinquent child for an act that would be an offense described in IC 5-2-12-4(1) if committed by an adult to register with a local law enforcement authority under IC 5-2-12.

(2) Order the child to receive outpatient treatment:

(A) at a social service agency or a psychological, a psychiatric, a medical, or an educational facility; or

(B) from an individual practitioner.

(3) Order the child to surrender the child's driver's license to the court for a specified period of time.

(4) Order the child to pay restitution if the victim provides reasonable evidence of the victim's loss, which the child may challenge at the dispositional hearing.

(5) Partially or completely emancipate the child under section 27 of this chapter.

(6) Order the child to attend an alcohol and drug services program established under IC 12-23-14.

(7) Order the child to perform community restitution or service for a specified period of time.

(8) Order wardship of the child as provided in section 9 of this chapter.

**(9) Order the child to participate in restorative justice programs.**

SECTION 7. IC 31-37-24-9 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2001]: Sec. 9. (a) The objectives of a plan developed under this chapter include the following:

(1) Promoting the welfare of children and self sufficiency of families with children at risk of abuse or neglect, dependency, or delinquency, as defined or described in this chapter.

(2) Preventing or reducing the number of cases of child abuse, delinquency, or neglect that may require juvenile court intervention.

(3) Coordinating available resources to promote efficiency and

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avoid duplication of programs and services.

(4) Reducing or minimizing the cost of providing services to children and families with children who are or may become delinquent children.

(5) Reducing or eliminating to the extent possible the need to remove children from their parents, guardians, or custodians for foster home care or institutional placement.

**(b) If authorized by the juvenile court, the plan may include components to promote restorative justice, including necessary training for participants in restorative justice programs.**

SECTION 8. IC 31-37-24-14, AS AMENDED BY P.L.273-1999, SECTION 117, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2001]: Sec. 14. (a) The team shall meet at least one (1) time each year to do the following:

(1) Develop, review, or revise a strategy that identifies:

(A) the manner in which prevention and early intervention services will be provided or improved;

(B) how local collaboration will improve children's services; and

(C) how different funds can be used to serve children and families more effectively.

(2) Reorganize as needed and select its vice chairperson for the ensuing year.

(3) Review the implementation of the plan and prepare revisions, additions, or updates of the plan that the team considers necessary or appropriate to improve the quality and efficiency of early intervention child welfare services provided in accordance with the plan.

**(4) If the juvenile court authorizes the plan to include restorative justice components, improve the plan to promote restorative justice.**

**(5) Prepare and submit to the county fiscal body a report on the operations of the plan during the preceding year and a revised and updated plan for the ensuing year.**

(b) The chairperson or vice chairperson of the team or the county fiscal body may convene any additional meetings of the team that are, in the chairperson's or vice chairperson's opinion, necessary or appropriate.

SECTION 9. IC 31-39-2-16 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2001]: **Sec. 16. If a person is participating in a restorative justice program involving a child or the child's family, the juvenile court**

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- 1     **may grant the person access to the records on the child and the**  
2     **child's family.**

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